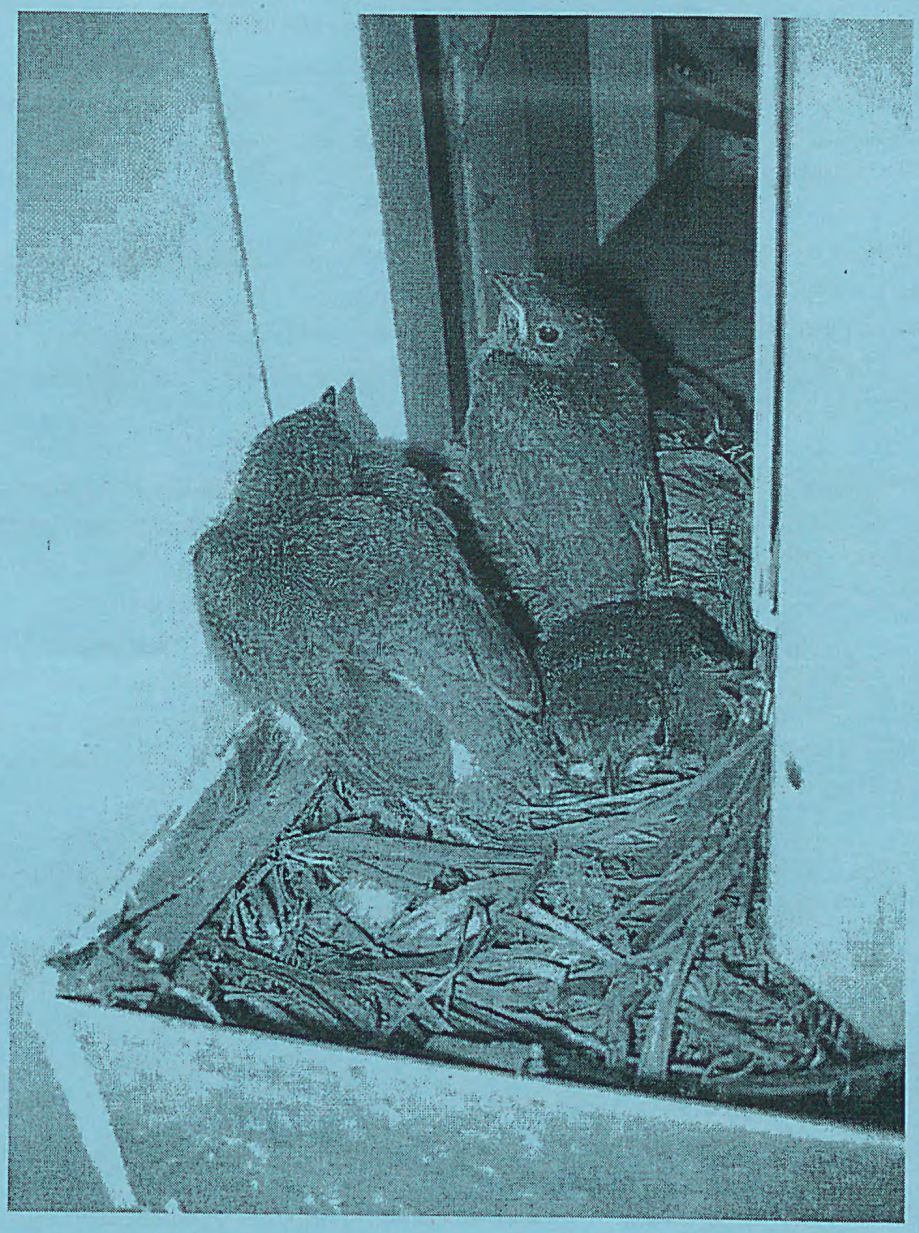
c3.

WHIRRAKEE

December 2006 Vol. 27 No. 11

Registered by Australia Post. Publication No. VBH4462



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE BENDIGO FIELD NATURALISTS CLUB

Bendigo Field Naturalists Club Inc.
Address for correspondence: PO Box 396, Bendigo 3552
ISSN 0812-423X

Office Bearers for 2006 - 2007

President	Glenise Moors	Mandurang South Road, Sedgwick	54396254
Senior Vice President	Richard Goonan		0423418815
Junior Vice President	Anne Bridley		5449 3479.
Secretary	Anne Bridley		5449 3479.
Minute Secretary	Peter Ellis		
Treasurer	Stuart Fraser	12 Bambara Close, Bendigo	
Membership Officer	Kate Lottkowitz	80 Piccaninny Rd, RSD Strathfieldsaye	5439 3157
Excursion organiser	Richard Goonan		0423418815
Syllabus organiser	Rod Orr	2 Cockerel Court, Bendigo	5443 5668
	(an assistant's position for the syllabus organiser is still vacant)		
Librarian	Diana Collier	31 Milroy Street, Bendigo	5443 0137
Garden Convenor/Secretary	Matthew Comer	46 Railway Place, Goornong	5432 2380
Hall Management	Maurie Lewis and Darren White		0407 427179
Whirrakee contact	Sabine Wilkens	82 Somerville Street, Bendigo e-mail: s.wilkens@latrobe.edu.au	5443 2797

Membership of the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club is open to all those interested in Natural History. The subscription rates are: Single $34; Family $40; Concession: Single $28.50; Family $34. *Whirrakee* subscription only is $34.

General meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month. The venue for General meetings is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square. The invited speaker at general meetings starts at 8:00pm and meetings conclude with supper.
If a workshop is held prior to the meeting, it will be advertised and it usually starts at 7.00pm.
The Annual Meeting is held in September.

Committee meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm. Members of the Committee are the Office Bearer listed above and the following members: Matthew Comer, Bill Holsworth, Darren White, Bob Ruddick, Rod Orr, Jan Orr, Peter Ellis, Ben Goonan, Richard Goonan, Anthony Sheean, Liz Graham

Excursions are conducted regularly and are advertised on the diary page of the *Whirrakee*. The assembly point for excursions is the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, unless otherwise specified. In addition to local excursions, campouts are held several times each year, usually coinciding with long weekends or holiday periods.

The Bendigo Field Naturalists Club has one active group that meets regularly (the Fauna Study Group) and other groups that meet at irregular intervals.

Fauna Study Group: meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building.
Chairman: John Burtonclay, Fadersons Lane, Mandurang (5439 5710)
Secretary: Bill Holsworth, 13 Nabilla Crs., Bendigo (5443 4063)
Equipment Officer: Maurie Lewis (0407 427179)

Bird Observers Group: This group has field excursions and the occasional lecture evening. Please consult the *Whirrakee* for details. Special bird observations should be reported to Anne Bridley 5449 3479.
To propose meetings or excursions please contact Kerrie Norris 5447 8017.

Front cover photo?...see page 2.

WHIRRAKEE

Monthly Newsletter of the Bendigo Field Naturalist Club
Vol. 27, No. 11, December 2006
Whirrakee takes its name from the Whirrakee Wattle (*Acacia williamsonii*) which is virtually endemic to the Bendigo region

CONTENT

Item	Contributor	Page
December excursion	Richard Goonan	3
River Red Gum Forest Investigation		3
CGB Natural Environment Strategy	Ros Woodburn	4
November general meeting: Victor Hurley 'A (Cautionary) Tale of a Cockatoo'	Rod Orr	4
Michael Clarke: 'Catering for the Needs of Wildlife in Flammable Landscapes'	Sabine Wilkens	5
Hist, Hark! and more , poems by	C.J.Dennis	7
Land donation to Trust for Nature	Press release	8
Animals in Myth and Religion – Public summer lecture series		9

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of the information they use and also for any opinions expressed in their articles. Contributions will be included as soon as possible after they are received, although articles received more than one week after the monthly General Meeting will probably be too late for inclusion in the next issue of *Whirrakee*.
Articles in *Whirrakee* may be reproduced, but permission should be obtained from the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club, and acknowledgment should be given to the author and the Club. Some back issues are still available on request.

Editor's Note:
Here is the last edition for this year. New(ish) members, please note, that there is no Whirrakee in January, nor will there be a general meeting…but everything resumes in February. The February edition is often a bit slim, so people who have a digital camera could e-mail me some of their holiday photos (especially if you are not going to make it to the February general meeting where there is a chance to show these off in colour!)
The December meeting will begin earlier, with the traditional Christmas dinner followed by the speaker who has been to fascinating places… (see back cover). I am very sorry that I'll be missing out on the Galapagos Islands and on all those delicious desserts this year.
I hope that all members and their friends and relations have a wonderful festive season and most of all that St Nicholaus will bring some rain!

Front Page Illustration – Photographer: Karen Thomas
This photo, taken on the 20th November, shows Grey Shrike Thrush babies who have been reared between the air conditioning unit and the wall of Karen's house. They flew off later that day.
…and in the next *Whirrakee*, watch out for another instalment of Karen's determined Willie Wagtails (see Jan/Feb edition 2006)!

Short Notices

December Excursion
with Richard Goonan

The last excursion for the year is to Mt Alexander Regional Park, an area of higher rainfall and elevation. We will look at plants (including weeds), birds, butterflies and spiders and how they are all connected by their ecology. Short walks, on and off tracks, are also on the programme. These will cover the koala and granite areas.

Saturday, December 16 depart 8am
return approx 3pm
For further information call: 0423418815
And...bring your sunscreen and your lunch, long pants (gaiters if you have them) and water.

If you are travelling on the bus, the cost is $10.00.

River Red Gum Forest Investigation
The Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC) has recently completed an inventory of the land use of River Red Gum Forests.

This document, called the 'River Red Gum Forest Investigation' is now available for public discussion and comment. Rod Orr has already attended one meeting as a member of the community reference group in Echuca.
Submissions to the document, particularly with regards to current use of river red gum forests, any interesting areas and any suggestions of continuing or discontinuing use, **can be made until December 7**.

Send your submission to:
Victorian Environmental Assessment Council
6th floor, 8 Nicholson Street
EAST MELBOURNE Vic, 3000
Or email – veac@dse.vic.gov.au

After this round of submissions, a set of draft recommendations will be drawn up by VEAC, and these will be available for public comment – so don't despair if you were unable to get any comments in this time around.

The current document can be viewed and downloaded from the web from www.veac.vic.gov.au and information about the progress of the next stage in the investigation will be available there as well.
We also have obtained a copy for the BFNC library and this can be borrowed (if it turns up again, see below...)

Please Help....by Diana Collier

Rod Orr presented a copy of **THE RED GUM PROJECT** (see article above), a large volume, at our last general meeting. At that meeting, it was stated that the book needed to be stamped and entered before it was borrowed. No one requested it that evening. It was put it in the library on a pile which was labelled "To be processed".
I returned the next day to enter new acquisitions, but this book was, and still is (Wed.15th Nov) **missing.** There is no borrowing record of it.
Does anyone know where it is?

Books and periodicals or slides are, of course, for reading and borrowing, but some account of them needs to be kept up to date. The new borrowing layout (explained at the last meeting) is to help this.
While on the topic of missing library items, there are many still recorded as borrowed, since the beginning of this year. Would you please check for any books or periodicals you may have borrowed, but forgotten that you still have them?

It might be helpful, if the names of borrowers with items outstanding were listed in the next *Whirrakee?* What do you think?

A Thank You from WRIN

The Wildlife Rescue and Information Network (WRIN) would like to thank the Bendigo Field Naturalists Club for their continued support in promoting our 24hr wildlife rescue number in the *Whirrakee*, and also in assisting us whenever we need a venue for activities other than our general meetings.

2006 has been a difficult year in some respects, due to attempts being made to discredit us to members of the public in the Bendigo region, our members standing tall but silent at the request of our president. On the other hand it has also been a wonderful year, our associations with other wildlife groups, assisting wildlife after wildfires with DSE, meeting many of the callers to our 24hr phone line, as well as our involvement with RACV and Zoo's Victoria, and the new RACV 'Wildlife Connect' initiative has shown we are capable of dealing with many situations under varying circumstances, also how much we have grown as a respected wildlife organization, not only within the Bendigo region, but much farther afield. Membership continues to grow with new friendships being made, both inside and outside WRIN.

As we approach our 10th birthday in February 2007, we look forward to continued growth and support from all who care for our wildlife and its environment.

Thank you Bendigo Field Naturalists Club. Have a happy Christmas and safe 2007.

Brenda Cheers, Maryborough Wildlife Shelter

CGB Natural Environment Strategy

By Ros Woodburn

The City of Greater Bendigo is developing a New Natural Environment Strategy which is a follow on from the 2001 Green Plan.
Community input up to now, will be culminating in a draft to be released early next year.

The City of Greater Bendigo website (located www.bendigo.vic.gov.au / Council Services / Strategic Planning / Natural Environment Strategy) will be updated regularly to inform the public as to our progress.
You can also register your interest in receiving project information by phoning 5434 6275 or emailing:
strategicplanning@bendigo.vic.gov.au
or you can call Ros Woodburn, Environment Planner on 5434 6275.

November General Meeting: Speaker Victor Hurley 'A (Cautionary) Tale of a Cockatoo'

by Rod Orr

Victor Hurley's talk started really late on that evening, as he was rushing from another far-away meeting to come to Bendigo. Those that stayed to hear it were rewarded, as it was very good indeed, and the questions and feedback afterwards were very positive.

Here is a brief summary of the presentation – it is the sort of message that we could help to spread.

Victor showed us his data (gathered over more than a decade) of the north-western Victorian population of the Major Mitchell Cockatoo and discussed its recent and dramatic decline.

The collapse was initiated by bird poachers, who operated as an organised gang and flew

between known remote breeding locations for the cockatoo. They were caught but not before they had done terrible damage to this population (this area had been a stronghold of the Pink Cockatoo). Their method was to locate nest sites, destroy any eggs that had already been laid, and then gather newly laid eggs for postage overseas (mostly to the US). The destruction of eggs already in the nests was done, so that they knew that newly laid eggs would not hatch out in transit.

During the recovery period since this episode, the population has been monitored closely and there has been a very slow increase in breeding success and bird numbers.

Unfortunately, there are limited nest sites suitable for these birds and they are suffering from the effects of increased competition for these sites, from Galahs, in particular, but also from other birds and reptiles, which use hollows in Slender Cypress Pine.

He told us about recent trials of constructed nest hollows, which, unfortunately, did not have the thermal insulation properties of 20 cm or so of cypress pine in a natural hollow. Maurie Lewis asked about using a chainsaw to begin the formation of 'natural' hollows - a new idea for Victor, but one that we felt he might pursue.

Victor also told us how the natural hollows were thought to be formed. Because the wood is termite resistant, this usual method of natural hollow formation does not occur. Some hollows may form through the rotting out of heartwood but usually, the cockatoos appear to chew out their own nest spaces, commencing with the site of recent damage to a living Cypress Pine.

The very interested response from the audience showed how much we all appreciated Victor's efforts in getting to Bendigo to talk to us.

Garry Cheers thanked Victor on our behalf (Bill Holsworth had introduced him at the beginning of his talk).

Catering for the needs of wildlife in flammable landscapes – the burning issue

by Michael Clarke, La Trobe University

This talk was given as part of a series of lectures at Ballarat University, in the School of Science and Engineering (for details see last paragraph). A strong Bendigo contingent was present, so a summary is presented her,e as the topic is probably of interest to many of our members…(ed)

Michael started off by telling us about a radical statement somebody had made:
Inappropriate fire regimes are one of the greatest threats to birds.
In his talk he was going to address, or at least go some way in addressing, if this was true.

Quite recently, Michael went on long service leave, and he toured various national parks with his family. At most park information centres, and in all leaflets describing these parks, there was always a mention of fire, and how it is a natural component of the ecosystem. If we were trusting characters, Michael said, we would be relieved by such statements – even in the face of the vast destruction of areas recently burnt.

Michael however, like quite a few people, had misgivings – especially since one of his study sites at Wilson's promontory had been burnt, and he could judge the results on the fauna there. Public opinion on fire management has swung from condemning fire in all situations, and attempting to suppress it everywhere (1960s) to the 'all fires are natural' (2005) attitude, which gives land managers free reign in their fire management.

The term 'fire regime' refers to various aspect of fire, its timing, its intensity and its frequency. These variables, as well as the total area burnt, make a huge difference to the post-fire ecology of the area and must be considered, when we talk of fire being 'natural'. Plants and animal in different types

of environments would have evolved with different fire regimes. For example, heath vegetation may well be adapted to cope with more frequent fires compared to the vegetation of a wet sclerophyll forest. Fire in Australia may be a natural occurrence, but what do we mean by 'natural'? What fire regime is this referring to – a pre-aboriginal, aboriginal or post-white settlement fire regime?

In 1980, Nobel and Slatyer published their 'vital attribute approach', which is based on the life history data for some key fire response species in various vegetation communities – primarily plants vulnerable to inappropriate fire regimes. By mathematical modelling, a theoretical age class distribution will result for the particular vegetation type, and this can be compared to the real age class distribution.

The next question is, what age class distribution of plants does the fauna need, or what age class distribution has the fauna evolved with or can cope with? Might the needs of the fauna be different to the need of the flora with respect to fire regimes?

Generally speaking, when judging the success of the bush 'coming back' after fire, only floristic diversity is used as an indicator. However, many components of the fauna are not nearly as flexible as the flora. For example, animals need a nearby unburnt area from which to recolonise the burnt bush. Some plants may have reached their capacity to go to seed again after 20 years, but do they have hollows for animals to nest in by then? What else do the animals need? We don't really know.

A statement in a NSW fire management plan needs to be read carefully to avoid complacency. It says there, that the proposed fire interval of 25-60 years (derived from floristic analysis) is compatible with the requirement of any threatened fauna with a known fire response. This statement may make you feel alright about the whole thing at first, until you realise that in that area of NSW, there are 55 threatened animal species, and fire response information exists for only two of these.

The idea that creating a mosaic of burning throughout the landscape to give animals diverse areas for foraging, roosting or breeding is not new, but Michael said that the jury is still out in determining the benefits of 'pyrodiversity' for the local fauna. He said that no bird is known to respond positively to fire, but some birds have diverse needs and this may include the seed of plants from recently burnt bushland, as well as old growth forest for nesting. The black-eared miner, for example, prefers large areas of unburnt bush.

It is thus apparent, that the size and spatial configuration of the patches in a mosaic are really important. This has led Michael Clarke, and a large team of postgraduate students and collaborators, to begin the **'Mallee Fire and Biodiversity Project'**.

The study is based on 28 circular vegetation patches (2km diameter) with varying amounts of old growth forest and vegetation age class distributions. The patches were chosen to represent the full spectrum of habitat configurations, and it is hoped that the effects on the fauna of the individual variables can be teased out. From this then, it is hoped that the effect of various fire regimes that created these patches can be judged.

The team wants to survey a wide variety of life forms, so they will look at birds, mammals, reptiles invertebrates and plants. Of the invertebrates they have chosen to survey termites, psyllids, scorpions, centipedes and possibly ants as well. These represent a wide variety of feeding habits.

Bird variety is measured by conducting various transects and surveys within each patch...by looking and listening. Michael showed us a slide of some postgraduate students doing just that, and they were obviously enjoying the task. Reptiles will be caught in buckets, invertebrates in pitfall

traps, and termite variety will be found by burying toilet rolls and uncovering them some months later. This is quite a clever technique as it apparently also reveals fox numbers (the foxes come and dig up the toilet rolls and leave their foot prints).

All the information collected will refine our understanding of the needs of fauna. The goal then, is to link the spatial data and fire history data to satellite imagery and from this, create a model that predicts the vulnerability of fauna to fire management.

At the moment there is not much lobbying going on **against** burning. However, politicians are very sensitive to cries **for** burning, particularly after yet another bush fire, in which homes and may be lives were lost. People who live near bushland are demanding that the bush be burnt, to protect their homes and family. Yet many such control burns get away. This may be destructive, but not detrimental, in a place like the Murray Sunset National Park, where 4000ha were to be burnt, which accidentally turned into 25000ha, but it can be detrimental in small patches of bush for which the tolerance margin for error is much smaller.

Michael finished the talk in good time to allow for the many questions. One important aspect came out at question time. Fire management should at no time try to keep a place in a static state. A door must always be kept open to allow for evolutionary change…

This is a large and complicated project which is going to result in a huge amount of data. It is great that somebody is working in that interesting geographical area and with so many enthusiastic people. Michael also thanked the many agencies and organizations that are supporting the project.

It was a long drive from Bendigo to hear a lecture, but lunch was provided on arrival and I felt that the time spent was well worth it. The organiser of this lecture series is Dr S. K. Florentine, and he is happy to put anybody interested in the series on his mailing list. His work phone number is 53279231 and his e-mail address is s.florentine@ballarat.edu.au As I am now on this list, I shall inform readers of any future lectures of interest.

Poems by C.J.Dennis

Some people tried to find the poem that Bill Holsworth had read out at the last general meeting – much to our delight. Bill.'s wife had pulled it out of the rubbish bin at the LaTrobe University library, but there was no indication of its author.
I remembered reading it to my children many times, but had some trouble finding the book it was in. Rod Orr did something much more modern, he found a site on the internet called poemhunter at:
http://www.poemhunter.com/poem/hist/
…and there is was! This is a strange site as you can also 'rate' a poem and write comments about it. The first poem is the one that Bill read out. When I looked, it was rated 5.5 out of 10, but only 4 people had rated it. I think this is grossly unfair, and feel it deserves much better. Judge for yourself (of course, the real effect only comes in when you read it aloud!)

Hist!

Hist! Hark!
The night is very dark
And we've to go a mile or so
Across the Possum Park
Step light
Keeping to the right;
If we delay and lose our way,
We'll be out half the night.
The clouds are low and gloomy. Oh!
It's just begun to mist!
We haven't any overcoats
And – Hist! Hist

(Mo poke!)
Who was that that spoke?
This is not a fitting spot
To make a silly joke.
Dear me
A mopoke in a tree!
It jarred me so, I didn't know
Whatever it could be.
But come along: creep along;
Soon we shall be missed.
They'll get a scare and wonder where
We – Hush! Hist!

Ssh! Soft!
I've told you oft and oft
We should not stray so far away
Without a moon aloft.
Oo! Scat!
Goodness! What was that?
Upon my word, it's quite absurd,
It's only just a cat.
But come along; haste along;
Soon we'll have to rush,
Or we'll be late, and find the gate
Is – Hist! Hush!

(Kok! Korrock!)
Oh! I've had a shock!
I hope and trust it's only just
A frog behind a rock.
Shoo! Shoo!
We've had enough of you;
Scaring folk just for a joke
Is not the thing to do.
But come along, slip along –
Isn't it a lark
Just to roam so far from home
On – Hist! Hark!

Look! See!
Shining through the tree,
The window-light is glowing bright
To welcome you and me.
Shout! Shout!
There's someone round about,
And through the door I see some more
And supper all laid out.
Now run! Run! Run!
Oh, we've had such splendid fun –
Through the park in the dark,
As brave as anyone.

Laughed, we did, and chaffed we did,
And whistled all the way,
And we're home again! Home again!
Hip Hooray!

C.J.Dennis

From A Song of Rain

Patter, patter…Boolcomatta,
Adelaide and Oodnadatta,
Pepegoona, parched and dry
Laugh beneath a dripping sky.
Riverina's thirsting plain
Knows the benison of rain.
Ararat and Arkaroola
Render thanks with Tantanoola
For the blessing they are gaining,
And it's raining – raining – raining!

C.J.Dennis

Growing up

Little Tommy Tadpole began to weep and wail,
For little Tommy Tadpole had lost his little tail,
And his mother didn't know him, as he wept upon a log;
For he wasn't Tommy Tadpole, but Mr Thomas frog.

C.J. Dennis

Press Release – **Generous Donation of Land to Trust for Nature**

About 30 years ago, Mr Robert Gosstray purchased a block of land south of Heathcote as a retreat from a busy life in Melbourne. This year he and his wife, Sue Ellen, decided to donate the 16ha property to Trust for Nature, a not for profit organisation dedicated to protecting bush on private land.

Mr Mike Gooey, Director of Trust for Nature, accepted this generous donation of land from the Gosstrays on Friday 6th October at the property in Millhaven Road, Heathcote.

Mike Gooey, said "The Trust is delighted to accept this wonderful property which will make a valuable contribute to the conservation of significant vegetation. The natural values of the land will be protected with a conservation covenant and the property will then be sold through our Revolving Fund. This means the proceeds of the sale can be used to purchase other land which has been identified as a high priority for protection."

The Regional Manager, Elvyne Hogan, assessed the property for its natural values with TfN Stewardship Officer, Tim Read.

Elvyne said "This property contains Box-Ironbark forest with some large old trees which provide great habitat for the local animals such as Sugar Gliders and Tuans. There is also a wonderful diversity of wildflowers which provide a beautiful garden in spring."

Admiring the wonderful views from the top of the hill, Mr Gooey suggested: "There could be a house situated on this cleared area where you could enjoy looking over the expanse of forests and distant hills to the east."

With the new Federal government tax legislation, people donating land are able to claim a tax rebate for the value of the land which can be spread over five years. All donations to Trust for Nature are tax deductible.

The property will be advertised on the Trust website at www.tfn.org.au for sale to someone who would like a bushland retreat to protect and enhance.

Anyone wanting further information on Trust for Nature can call 9670 9933.

Or contact Elvyne Hogan, Regional Manager, Phone: 5435 4062; Mobile: 0417538678Email: elvyneh@tfn.org.au

Animals in Myth and Religion

This is a terrific-looking summer program of public lectures offered by the staff and post-graduate students of the Philosophy and Religious Studies discipline at La Trobe University, Bendigo.

The venue is the La Trobe Visual Arts Centre, View Street, Bendigo.
No registration necessary. All sessions are gold coin donation at the door. Tea and coffee is provided.
For more information e-mail Rod Blackhirst at: r.blackhirst@latrobe.edu.au

---

First Session
Wednesday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 31st January
Animals in the Spiritual Life of the Plains Indians of North America
Animals occupy a central place in the cosmology and the ritual life of the American Indians. This talk explores the spiritual significance of animals in traditional Indian culture, particularly with respect to the Lakota tribe. This subject will also lead into some general reflections about the importance of symbolism in traditional understandings of the natural order.

Presenter: Associate Professor Dr Harry Old-meadow

Second Session
Friday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 2nd February
Kosher and Halal: Food laws in Judaism & Islam
Why don't Jews and Muslims eat pork? What else is forbidden? What animals are pure and impure? What is kosher and halal food? This session will explain the historical background, rationales and the details of the food laws of Judaism and Islam, along with comparisons to the Christian tradition.

Presenter: Dr Rod Blackhirst

Third Session
Sunday afternoon 2pm-4pm 4th February
Animals and the Ideal of Ahimsa (non-injuriousness) in Eastern Traditions
The ideal of ahimsa (sometimes translated as "non-violence" but better understood as "non-injuriousness") is integral to Hinduism, Jainism and Buddhism. This session explores the ways in which this ideal is understood in relation to animals in these traditions. Some particular attention will be given to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi.

Presenter: Associate Professor Dr Harry Oldmeadow

Fourth Session
Wednesday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 7th February
The Iconography of the Elephant
Of all animals elephants are known to mourn their dead. The elephant is a sacred creature in many religious traditions. In this session Dorothy Avery will present an overview of the sacredness of elephants with particular reference to elephants in religious iconography, especially in the Hindu tradition.

Presenter: Mrs Dorothy Avery

Fifth Session
Friday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 9th February
Barefooted Vegetarians in the Western Christian Tradition: a Carmelite perspective
The Carmelite Order, one of the oldest in the Christian tradition, takes its name and origin from Mt Carmel in modern day Israel. Carmelites, like Carthusians, Cistercians and some of the other older Orders, do not eat meat. Carmelites who follow the C16th reform of Teresa of Avila are called 'discalced'; they are barefooted. In this session, Wendy Brennan, will look at the background and history of the Carmelites, these 'barefooted vegetarians'.

Presenter: Ms Wendy Brennan

Sixth Session
Sunday afternoon 2pm-4pm 11th February
Animals in Paganism & Wicca
Animals have a central place in the old nature-based religions. In this session David Waldron will explore the use, understanding and symbolism of animals in the European pagan and wicca traditions.

Presenter: Dr David Waldron

Seventh Session
Wednesday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 14th February
Oh No! Clashing with BFNC meeting.....
Plato on Man and Pig: Plato's Animal Morphology
Presenter: Dr Roger Sworder

Eighth Session
Friday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 16th February
Animals in Christian Symbolism
Presenter: Dr Brian Coman

Ninth Session
Sunday afternoon 2pm-4pm 18th February
The Language of the Birds Presenter: Mr James Larking

Tenth Session
Wednesday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 21st February
Do Animals Have Souls? An Epicurean Perspective
Presenter: Mr John Penwill

Eleventh Session
Friday Evening 7.30pm-9.30pm 23rd February
In Defence of Dogs
Presenter: Ms Jan Porter

Twelfth Session
Sunday afternoon 2pm-4pm 25th February
Legends of the Buraq: An Islamic Bestiary
Presenter: Dr Rod Blackhirst

Diary

The General, Bird Observers Group and Fauna Study Group meetings are held at the Golden Square Senior Citizens Building, Old High Street, Golden Square, unless otherwise indicated.

General Meetings

Wednesday, December 13 6.30pm
PLEASE NOTE ...earlier starting time

The December meeting traditionally begins with a dinner. Please bring a dish to share and your own drinks and eating utensils.

The speaker will be Jill McFarlane, a member of the Victorian Environmental Assessment Council (VEAC). Jill will talk about her trip to the Galapagos Islands in March this year. She has said, that the encounters with strange animals and sightings of some rare birds was really exciting, but that her photos hardly do justice as a record of these experiences..., however, our members may think otherwise. Jill will also compare the Galapagos with other islands she has visited over the last few years.

Wednesday, February 14 7.30pm
PLEASE NOTE...there is no January meeting
For February's meeting, we usually show members' slides of holiday activities, which incorporate Natural History of some sort - for next February, we now also have our data projector, so we can show members' digital photos.
Members are asked to select their best 10 digital photos and to bring them along in a form that can be shown (on CD or saved on a memory stick) - we will then do our best to show them. Photographic slides may also be brought along as we are still able to use the slide projector.

Excursions

The last excursion for the year is to Mt Alexander Regional Park, an area of higher rainfall and elevation. We will look at plants (including weeds), birds, butterflies and spiders and how they are all connected by their ecology. Short walks, on and off tracks, are also on the programme. These will cover the koala and granite areas.

Saturday, December 16 depart 8am
return approx 3pm
For further information call: 0423418815
And...bring your sunscreen and your lunch, long pants (gaiters if you have them) and water.

If you travelling on the bus, the cost is $10.00.

Fauna Group

This group meets (in the clubrooms) on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm.

Fauna Excursions

Every Friday morning starting at around 9 to 9:30, the Fauna Group inspects nest boxes in the Spring Gully area. The excursions are led by Maurie Lewis, 16 Vains St. Golden Square. Phone 0407 427 179 or 5442 1813. Phone Maurie to confirm exact departure times and location. If you don't phone but go directly to Maurie's house and find nobody at the house between 9 and 9:30 then the excursion is not on.

Wildlife Rescue & Information Network Inc.

W.R.I.N. is an organisation dedicated to the care of orphaned, sick or injured native animals. It is fully endorsed by the Dept of Sustainability and Environment.
Please call our Emergency Number for Help for Fauna in Need. Phone: 0419 356433.

SEANA campout March 2007

hosted by Geelong Field Naturalists Club
location: Forrest, in the central Otways.
Booking must be early:
A $30 deposit/participant is now due. Make cheques payable to SEANA Inc Autumn 2007 campout, post to ER Southcombe, 4 Peary St, Belmont 3216.